

Last month the JOURNAL published some editorial notes relating to distinguished physicians who had contributed articles to publications which continue to advertise nostrums and frauds that have been shown up. These remarks have created some little comment which, so far as it has come to the attention of the JOURNAL, has been entirely favorable. We shall continue to refer to the subject from time to time. In the *American Journal of Urology* for February, 1912, there is an article by Dr. M. Krotoszyner, a distinguished physician of San Francisco and for many years a prominent member of our Society. In the same issue of that medical (?) journal are to be found the following advertisements: Ergoapiol, antiphlogistine, glycothymoline, peptomangan, glycoheroin, antheol and dioradin. The list is not so large as some, but that is probably because the publication is a special one and doubtless has but a limited circulation. Does Dr. Krotoszyner know anything about the things that that journal advertises? Does he not know that ergoapiol is advertised in the newspapers; has he ever looked at the label on a bottle of glycothymoline; has he not read the exposures of the peptomangan "literature" by the A. M. A.? Surely he must be conversant with these things, but he doubtless does not realize that the publication in question carries such advertisements. He certainly would not intentionally do anything to injure the excellent work that the Association is doing through the Council on Pharmacy and Chemistry, and yet that is just what he is doing, unthinkingly, by contributing to or subscribing to a publication that will advertise these things.

The Ramsey County (Minnesota) Medical Society must be a large, strong and proud organization and the members must consider it a distinct honor to belong to such a scientific body. It publishes a monthly medical journal known as the "St. Paul Medical Journal"—or, at least, there is at the bottom of the cover of the journal of that title, the following imprint: "Edited and published by the Ramsey County Medical Society, Saint Paul, Minnesota." It must be a great encouragement to the A. M. A. in its efforts to make the profession a little cleaner, to see the way the Ramsey County Medical Society helps along the work. The issue of this county society's journal for March contains, among others, the following choice advertisements: Grays glycerine tonic; hydroleine; papine; kathammon; Kutnow's powder; iodoneen; carabana; glycothymoline; bovine; sal hepatica; pepto-mangan; listerine; ergoapiol; antiphlogistine; postum; fellows hypophosphites; fig syrup; pasadyne and glycoheroin. Do the members of the Ramsey County Medical Society really want to be decent, collectively? It is hard to say.

Elsewhere in this issue of the JOURNAL will be found some columns of news items. These are taken from press clippings from papers in California, Nevada and Honolulu, and they present several things of more or less interest. First, let it be said, that the attempt is not made to run "personals"; this is rather an experiment in the way of trying to set forth, briefly, sundry items that may or may not be personal but that have, or seem to have, some general interest aside from the merely personal one. It appears that smallpox is, speaking geographically and not numerically, pretty widely distributed throughout the state, and further, that the new vaccination law does not seem to be quite so satisfactory to the antivaccinationists as they thought it would be. That was about what was to be expected. They are just like the howlers against any form of public health bill; they all say the same thing. "Let us have proper regulation." But when you come right down to brass tacks, you find that any sort of regulation that really regulates, is considered by them to be not "proper." They merely want empty words and not anything that positively does something. We also see from looking over the material that the papers are printing, that a good many of them are using the copy sent out each week by the Press Bureau of the A. M. A. Quite a few papers are using this copy for editorials and a number of others are printing it merely as "readers" or news items. That is a good sign, and another good sign is to see the number of public meetings or club meetings where lectures or addresses are given by medical men on various medical or public health subjects. This, again, is the right sort of work in the right direction; all that we, as physicians, can do is to tell the people the facts and then let them weigh these facts against other people's dreams or ideas; in the end they will decide right.

In any fight for a good cause, to make a mistake and hurt an innocent party does the just cause a great deal of harm; more harm than many of those who are opposing it could ever do. For this reason the Editor wishes to express the keenest regret that, inadvertently and carelessly, "chinosol" was included in a list of nostrums mentioned in the March JOURNAL. Long before the Chinosol Co. had discovered the fact and called our attention to it, a correction had been prepared and will be found on another page of this issue. This was written voluntarily and with only the feeling that an injustice had been done. Whether our words would hurt the Chinosol Co. or not is a question; but to allow an error of this sort to go by without the very fullest correction would certainly hurt the effort to secure honesty of manufacture in medicinal articles. If a manufacturer is willing to submit his product to the Council on Pharmacy and Chemistry, to comply with their rules and to be perfectly honest with the medical profession, he certainly should

get the support and the confidence of the profession and of the medical press and not abuse, accidental or otherwise.

This is the first instance since the organization of the Council that an article approved by it has been referred to in this JOURNAL as a "nostrum" or in any such way criticised, and if care will prevent it, it will be the last. Every one who knows this JOURNAL or its editor knows that it is our one desire to encourage the Council and the manufacturers who submit their products to it. On page 53 of New and Nonofficial Remedies (1911), we find, referring to chinosol, the following:

"Actions and Uses. So far as experimental evidence goes, chinosol is non-toxic. It is a powerful antiseptic equal in this respect to mercuric chloride and considerably stronger than phenol. It exerts an antiseptic action in solutions containing one part to 5,000. It is a feeble germicide, being weaker than phenol and much weaker than mercuric chloride."

HYDROPHOBIA.

Interest in rabies has been greatly intensified by its suddenly becoming prevalent in San Francisco. During the month of February many dogs developed the characteristic symptoms and a number of human beings were bitten. Proof of the presence of rabies was secured in many cases by the demonstration of Negri bodies in the ganglion cells of the brain tissue, and in some instances by the production of the disease in laboratory animals, through inoculation. The examinations were made in the State Hygienic Laboratory in Berkeley, in the Laboratory of the San Francisco Health Department, and in the Laboratory of the Letterman General Hospital at the Presidio.

The State Board of Health has done much to minimize the number of human deaths by providing Pasteur treatment with United States Government virus for the people who have been bitten by rabid animals and are unable to be immunized at their own expense. Fortunately most of the people needing treatment are receiving it, but there are a few who listen to irresponsible talk about "hysteria," "phobias," and "imagination," and are influenced to take their chance with the disease. The first human victim of those who, from lack of knowledge or from design, are stating that the disease is merely a mental state produced by fear is at this writing passing through an agonizing death-struggle in one of the San Francisco hospitals. After being bitten while trying to treat his own dog, obviously ill with rabies, this patient talked with acquaintances who told him that the disease in human beings was merely imagination. The man was persuaded against taking treatment. Four and a half weeks later the spasms in his throat commenced and nothing could be done for him except to lessen the agony of the few remaining days of life.

The disease in San Francisco is but a small part of the epidemic which has been increasing in

California during the last two and a half years. Rabies retains its foothold in Southern California and is now prevalent in the San Joaquin Valley from Bakersfield to Modesto. The number of dogs which have succumbed to the disease is estimated in the thousands. Cattle, horses, and hogs have received the infection from dogs. Several hundred persons have taken the Pasteur treatment to prevent the development of the disease after the bites of rabid animals. In California, eight persons have died with the typical symptoms of rabies.

Now a direct word to physicians: You are the authorities on health matters in your own communities and you can easily assist or greatly hinder measures for the control of rabies. There is only one feasible and successful method of controlling it and that is by the muzzling of all dogs at large so that they cannot bite each other. The physician who freely states that he has never seen a case in California and that therefore he does not believe the disease exists in the state, and the doctor who exercises his imagination devising popular substitutes for tried and efficient methods of control, make it almost impossible to produce rational legislation with regard to rabies. If physicians will inform themselves regarding this disease, new to California, it will soon be put under control through the steps obviously necessary for the protection of animals and human beings.

W. A. SAWYER.

DEL MONTE

APRIL 16TH, 17TH, 18TH.

WILL YOU BE THERE?